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Peking Pushing Socialist System Among Peasants

UPI

Communist China has taken a giant stride toward further tightening party control of the nation's 500-million peasants and toward the Marxist "classless society," it was disclosed Wednesday.

The disclosure came in a lengthy editorial Thursday in the official Peking People's Daily which was reported tonight by the New China News Agency.

"The fast developing people's communes," the paper said, "marks a new stage of the socialist movement in China's rural areas."

The basic features of the new "communes," as explained by the Peoples Daily are:

— "They are big in scale." The people's "communes" established so far, the paper added, "generally embrace some 10,000 members or even 10,000 households and their area is equal to that of townships."

— "The people's communes represent a higher level of socialist development and collectivization than agricultural producers cooperatives."

The giant steps for the new "communes" in China came as a surprise to most observers here who were already astonished by the rapid transformation of the nation's peasants from individual ownership of land to "farm cooperatives."

Approximately 700,000 farming cooperatives were set up in China in rapid fashion, mostly in 1955, after an order from Chairman Mao Tse-tung that the drive toward collectivization be speeded up. The

farm cooperatives in China generally ranged in size from a few dozen to several hundred households.

"Virtually all the peasants in Honan and Liaoning Provinces are now in people's communes," the newspaper said. "The movement is reaching its high tide in Hopei, Heilungkiang and Anhwei Provinces and is spreading to other provinces in northwest China, along the Yangtze and to the south of it."

The areas mentioned above include some of the most thickly populated areas of China.

The "communes" the newspaper explained, will develop "agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery and subsidiary production simultaneously and merge industry, agriculture, exchange, culture and education, and the militia into one."